

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PROGRAM

City/Town of Smithers

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PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: City of Smithers		
Certifying Official: D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D.	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Teresa Dorsey	Title: City Clerk	
Address: 2 Greyhound Lane, P.O. Box 489		
City, State, Zip: Smithers, WV 25186		
Telephone Number: (304) 442-5282	Fax Number: (304) 442-4497	
E-Mail Address: TDorsey@smitherswv.gov		
2010 Census Population: 813		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
<i>D. Anne Cavalier</i>	<i>D. Anne Cavalier</i>	<i>12/17/2020</i>
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<p>Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10th (1st reading July 13, 2020) to allow identifying eyesores and dilapidated buildings.</p>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 08/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City of Smithers now has an inventory of eyesores and dilapidated buildings which is updated monthly at the Smithers Building Commission meeting. The City of Smithers has worked with private owners to demolish two buildings and to conduct asbestos testing on five buildings, 3 of which are now on our demolition list. These three buildings are not currently in use, had become public nuisances, and were deemed dangerous to the public. As a consequence, the City is fulfilling its pledge to residents and to the Home Rule Board to create and maintain a clean, safe, and attractive community.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The City's ability to move successfully forward with identifying eyesores and dilapidated building and to remove or improve them has allowed the City to attract a business. For example, two of the most visually offensive and dangerous buildings were demolished and then a new business located across the street. This new business moved into a vacant, good condition building that had remained empty for several years. The new business owner expressed his appreciation for how nice the area now looked, how safe it now appeared, and how he was willing to make the investment. Both the landlord and the new business are now paying the appropriate taxes. This would not have happened if the property across the street had continued to like unsafe and to attract vagrants.</p>

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<p>Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10th (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow the disposal of property without auction.</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 08/10/2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A</p>
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City of Smithers has not had the opportunity yet to utilize this Home Rule tool; however, the City is in discussions with private owners of dilapidated structures to donate those to the City. These properties are in the middle of the business district on Michigan Avenue and along the main artery through the City, Rt 60/Midland Trail. The plan is to accept these properties, demolish the dilapidated structures, and then market the resulting lots to prospective new businesses. This Home Rule tool will allow the City to have an advantageous position to work with and incentivize the right businesses.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. These are early days using this Home Rule tool, but it is already easier to plan ahead knowing that this tool is available to help market the City to prospective businesses.</p>

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<p>Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10th (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow intergovernmental agreements.</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 08/10/2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A</p>
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City of Smithers has signed an agreement with WVU that is mutually advantageous to the City of Smithers, the City of Montgomery, and to WVU. By using this Home Rule tool, the agreement will provide \$75,000 to the City of Smithers during the current fiscal year and will provide to WVU services to its programs and properties.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. The City of Smithers, prior to having this Home Rule tool, entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Montgomery to create the UKV Strategic Initiatives Council. This effort took the cities nearly a year to accomplish and to receive approval to sign this agreement. This agreement has been highly advantageous to both cities, has allowed us to each save precious budget dollars and create better services to our residents, but it took way too long to put into effect and ate up the most rare resources of part-time, small city mayors time. The agreement with WVU moved forward legally and quickly and was approved with a vote of their board and our City Council and was in place within one month.</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each tax related initiative included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<p>Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10th (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow a 1% sales and use tax</p>
<p>Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 08/10/2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A</p>
<p>REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. N/A</p>
<p>SUCCESSSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The 1% sales and use tax goes into effect on or about July 1, 2021, thus any successes are yet to be experienced.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. There is a great deal of detailed information, often very hard to get and assemble by a one-person staff, to report to the Department of Tax and Revenue in order to give that department the information it needs to support the initiation and operation of assessing and collecting this tax. The COVID restrictions on ways to work and communicate have made this an ever more difficult task, the City is still trying to complete by December 31, 2020. The City does greatly appreciate the patience and technical assistance of that department's personnel. Building the data for collection of this tax is probably much easier for municipalities that have home delivery of US Mail. The City of Smithers only has post office delivery of US Mail, but it also has home delivery of packages by FedEx, UPS, USPS, etc. Many residents find it difficult to give successful addresses to shippers who refuse P.O. Box addresses. There are people with P.O. Boxes in Smithers, but who live in other parts of the UKV and there are residents of Smithers who have P.O. Boxes elsewhere. Often box holders do this in order to pick up US Mail close to places of work. This situation has proven to be difficult in developing the correct data.</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<p>Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10th (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow reduction of the Business and Occupation Tax.</p>
<p>Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 08/10/2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A</p>
<p>REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. N/A</p>
<p>SUCCESSSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance. None to report yet. There will be updates available at the next reporting period.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. None to report yet. There will be updates available at the next reporting period.</p>